

MEASURING & MAPPING THE JOURNEY TO SELF-RELIANCE



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WHAT DOES USAID MEAN BY SELF-RELIANCE?

Self-reliance is a country's ability to plan, finance, and implement solutions to solve its own development challenges. In order to one day end the need for foreign assistance, USAID needs to understand how self-reliant each of its partner countries is overall – as well as where the country's self-reliance strengths and challenges are – and reorient its partnerships accordingly. Ultimately, USAID wants to ensure that the programs it implements are best supporting a country's journey to self-reliance.

Two mutually-reinforcing factors determine a country's self-reliance: commitment and capacity. To that end, USAID has identified an initial set of 17 third-party, high-level metrics that it feels best-capture these concepts.

COMMITMENT: the degree to which a country's laws, policies, actions, and informal governance mechanisms – such as cultures and norms – support progress towards self-reliance.

CAPACITY: how far a country has come in its ability to manage its own development, across the dimensions of political, social, and economic development, including the ability to work across these sectors.

As a country increases its commitment and capacity to plan, finance, and manage its own development, its level of self-reliance also increases. As that happens, USAID's partnership should also evolve – ensuring that the relationship best-supports a country's journey to greater self-reliance.



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COMMITMENT METRICS CHOICES/BEHAVIORS

- 1. Open and Accountable Governance**
Liberal Democracy Index (V-Dem)
Open Government (WJP)
- 2. Inclusive Development**
Social Group Equality (V-Dem)
Economic Gender Gap (WEF)
- 3. Economic Policy**
Business Environment (Legatum)
Trade Freedom (Heritage)
Biodiversity and Habitat Protection (Yale/CIESIN)



CAPACITY METRICS ACHIEVEMENT/OUTCOMES

- 1. Capacity of the Government**
Government Effectiveness (WGI)
Efficiency of Tax Administration (IPD)
Safety and Security (Legatum)
- 2. Capacity of Civil Society**
Diagonal Accountability Index (V-Dem)
- 3. Capacity of Citizens**
Poverty Rate (World Bank)
Education Quality (World Bank)
Child Health (CIESIN)
- 4. Capacity of the Economy**
Per Capita GDP in PPP (World Bank)
ICT Use (WEF)
Export Concentration Index (UNCTAD)

HOW WILL USAID USE THE SELF-RELIANCE METRICS?

- **To plot the overall journey.** By plotting where countries fall along the development spectrum, the Agency is able to put a first stake in the ground of understanding what it means to reorient around the concept of self-reliance.
- **To inform strategic decisions.** While they will not be the only tool, the metrics will be an important part of where USAID anchors its country strategies going forward.
- **For use in development dialogue.** The metrics allow USAID to see not only where a country is in its overall journey to self-reliance, but also its relative strengths and relative challenges along the 17 indicators.
- **To signal when USAID might consider a strategic transition.** When the metrics indicate that a country has achieved an advanced level of self-reliance, this – together with supplemental information – may signal that it is time to explore a conversation about strategic transition.

MAPPING TO THE FUTURE

To tell each country's self-reliance story, USAID will produce Country Roadmaps for all low- and middle-income countries, which it plans to launch publicly in October 2018. Roadmaps will show a country's overall level of self-reliance, including its performance on each of the 17 metrics.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SELF-RELIANCE, THE METRICS AND ROADMAPS:

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